

SOCIETY OF ARTS PRIZES.—To be able to speak in praise of an individual or of individuals is far more grateful to the feelings of an honest man than the necessity of doing the contrary, yet occasions may arise when the submitting to the pain of the latter will become an imperative duty, compelling him to act the gratuitous part of a censor. I trust you will, as one of the best friends the artist has, allow me to give a slight twitch to a public institution calling itself the Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, &c. but which ought to be called otherwise. His Royal Highness Prince Albert some time ago, in addressing a deputation from the society, impressed upon them the necessity of encouraging the decorative arts with a view of improving the character of British manufactures, and no doubt the deputation went home with a fixed determination to follow the recommendation, the result being the issuing of a yearly list of premiums, which scarcely a student in any of the schools of design thought it worth while to try for at first, and which those even who got prizes now consider perfectly beneath their notice, accompanied as the list of prizes is by a most dilatory system. It is a fact scarcely creditable that some of the candidates in the last competition have had to wait from January 1st until now in suspense as to the result of their efforts, and that then the paltry premium of five pounds in the case of a design for a fire-screen was reduced to three. Even if this design did not come up to the standard of taste which the art-committee are in the habit of consulting, it was still entitled to the full premium, it being the best submitted; but I have good authority for stating that it was a good design, which had cost a great deal of research, and to which a great deal of consideration had been given; but it was an outline, whereas it should have been illuminated. I have enclosed a list of the prizes, and I submit whether you think the beautiful ornamental composition of the ancients or of the *cinque cento* were elicited by the like encouragement. Three pounds for a dinner plate; five pounds for a model of a candlestick, and so on; the largest amount being ten pounds for a tea-urn, but which is likewise very modestly requested to be accompanied by a full-sized model.—W.

COPYRIGHT OF DESIGNS.—The first clause of the new bill enacts that any design or invention not previously published may be "provisionally registered" for one year, upon application to the registrar. Clause 4 enacts that articles made after the design or invention cannot be sold during the period of provisional registration, without forfeiting the right to this protection, the provision not, however, hindering the proprietor from selling his sole property or right in that design. Clause 5 provides that the period of provisional registration may be extended for six months, on the decision of the Board of Trade. Clause 6 sets forth that the provisional registration will extend to sculptures, models, copies, or casts, within the protection of the Copyright Act. Clause 7 provides that, in case of piracy of any such model, copy, or cast, the person so offending shall forfeit not less than five or more than thirty pounds; the penalty payable to the proprietor of the infringed article. Clause 8 enacts that designs for the ornamenting of ivory, bone, papier maché, &c., may be registered under the Designs Act of 1842, for three years. Clause 9 provides that the Board of Trade may extend copyright in ornamental designs for an additional time not exceeding six years. Clause 11 provides, that in certain cases to be judged of by the registrar, drawings of the designs may be dispensed with when application is made for provisional registration.

ECCLESIOLOGICAL LATE CAMBRIDGE CAMDEN SOCIETY.—Meetings of the Committee of this society were held on June 12 and July 20. In a letter of thanks for the society's grant to Sydney cathedral, the Rev. G. Gilbert called attention to some glass now missing from Canterbury cathedral. A grant of 5*l.* was made in aid of the fund for a testimonial to the late Dean of Hereford, by filling with stained glass the eastern windows of the Lady chapel, and, if possible, finishing that part of the cathedral. It was also resolved to undertake the coloured ornamentation of one bay of the nave in the round church of St. John, Little Maplestead; or, in

the event of the works not proceeding so far, some equivalent decorative work. An account of the discovery of some Romanesque portions in the present church of St. Nicholas, Aberdeen, by Mr. G. J. R. Gordon, was submitted; and some corrections and additions to the "Handbook of English Ecclesiology," were received from Mr. J. J. Rogers, of the Temple. It was agreed that the publication of the number of the *Instrumenta Ecclesiastica*, due in July, should be deferred till September; and the Committee, with the assent of Mr. Butterfield, resolved in future to invite drawings of details, &c., suitable to the series, from any quarter, especially from the professional members of the society, and to adopt any that might appear likely to be useful. An advantage of this plan would be, it was thought, that it might bring the skill of younger architects more under the notice of the committee. A fit person having been found to undertake the details of funerals in a religious and correct way, it was agreed to issue proposals for a burial guild, and to receive the names of persons wishing to co-operate.*

THE GLAZING OF THE GREAT GREENHOUSE.—A correspondent is very desirous that the glazing of the building for '51 be creditably performed. He says,—"The glazing alone will employ about 150 glaziers, for ten weeks, and as that number of respectable workmen will be rather difficult to collect, they will require efficient superintendence, or half the glass will be put in without proper bedding, and the risk of leakage much increased. Probably 150 tons of putty will be required, and, as new putty is unfit for use, it ought to be made immediately, and when required for use a number of labourers employed to beat it and hand it to the glaziers. The general complaint of the scarcity of artistic workmen is frequently exemplified by glaziers in glazing ornamental glass, which has, since the removal of the excise duty, come into extensive use: we frequently see the ornament placed upside down, and, where the ornament is shaded, the shadow in all directions in the same window, and frequently at the junctions of the squares the figures are so badly arranged and broken as to be a disfigurement instead of a decoration. A few hints would attract attention to the subject, which only requires such friendly admonition to be avoided."—W. H. J.

STATUES.—Mr. Calder Marshall has completed his statue of Clarendon, for the new Houses of Parliament, and Mr. Foley his statue of Hampden for same place,—both very successfully. Mr. Edward Davis has finished the model for the bronze figure of the Duke of Rutland, to be set up in Leicester.

GLASTONBURY ABBEY.—The interesting ruins of Glastonbury Abbey, the abbey barn, &c., are to be sold by Mr. Frederick Chinnock in the course of a few days. An illustrated catalogue has been published, which is very superior to attempts of this kind generally.

BUILDERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The annual meeting of this charity was held on Tuesday last, at the London Tavern, Mr. Cubitt, M.P. in the chair, when the secretary read the report for the past year, from which we are glad to perceive that satisfactory progress has been made. The amount received in donations and subscriptions for the year ending June 1850, is 1,028*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.*, inclusive of 400*l.* subscribed at the dinner on the 4th of June, with the first annual subscription of 20*l.* from Col. the Hon. E. G. D. Pennant, M.P. The profit derived from the ball in January last amounted to 98*l.* odd. Besides the four pensioners elected in October last, and a poor widow who died a few days after her election, the directors have resolved on another election of five pensioners in October next. The present funds of the Institution are 1,100*l.* stock to the relief fund, 800*l.* to the building fund, and balance at bankers 229*l.* odd.

LANDLORD AND TENANT.—At the Oxford Circuit it has been ruled that a written agreement to let and to build may be verbally rescinded by mutual agreement. The jury assessed the damages contingent at 20*l.*, so as to prevent the necessity of another trial, should the Court above differ from this decision.

* For a development of the project see the *Architectural* for August.

SCENERY AT ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN.—Halévy's very interesting opera, *La Juive*, has afforded to Messrs. Grieve and Telbin an occasion to produce some beautiful scenery, and to Mr. P. Gye, the able director, an opportunity for the display of taste and knowledge in the costumes and arrangements. The action is laid in Constance, in the fifteenth century, and the whole is contrived to give a vivid impression of the times. The first scene is a good piece of domestic Gothic: the turret on the left, with small gables round the roof, and the well, are capitally drawn. A wood scene in the third act, with tent, or horizontal canopy, on the left hand side, with the picturesque groups brought before it, is exceedingly effective.

PLANS OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—Out of thirteen sets of plans for public and private slaughterhouses, offered for competition, containing excellences of a varied character, the directors of the Islington Cattle Market and Abattoir Company have decided upon awarding their premiums for a public slaughterhouse to Messrs. Ellis and Hussey, and for a private one, to Mr. T. Turner, of Back-labury. We do not exactly understand this decision, having previously been made to understand that an ingenious plan by Mr. Gooch was selected.

NEW CHURCHES.—At Lambeth two new churches are about to be erected, one to be named St. Thomas's, and the other St. Andrew's.—The first stone of a new church was laid at Gravesend on the 24th ult. Of the cost, about 2,000*l.* have been subscribed, and Lord Darnley gave the site, besides a donation of 200*l.* A large sum is still required.—The first stone of a new church was laid last week in Victoria-road, Kensington. The site was liberally presented by H. L. Vallotton, Esq., the proprietor of the adjoining estate.

BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.—The fifth arch from the north side of this bridge appears to have sunk to some extent, and means are being taken to secure it from further danger.

THE BUILDING IN HYDE PARK.—The contractors have begun, and are proceeding vigorously.

LORD WARD'S PICTURES.—About 120 pictures, collected in Italy and elsewhere by Lord Ward, have been placed in the great room of the Egyptian Hall. We believe it is Lord Ward's intention to make them accessible to the public.

THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.—With the view of improving the acoustical properties of the chamber, a temporary ceiling has been formed, which considerably reduces the height of the apartment. It is in its central compartment horizontal, with sides and ends inclining downward; the former being 8 feet below the level of the previous ceiling, and the latter 13 feet 6 inches. We are told that the hearing is certainly improved: at the same time, the quantity of light admitted has been materially diminished, the upper half of all the windows being contained in the space between the new ceiling and the old. We must look into the matter.

EXETER-HALL.—Considerable alterations are about being effected in this building, with a view to remedy defects complained of in its capabilities for sound. The raising of the present flat ceiling, giving it an arched form, free from unnecessary projections, the removal of the large square pillars at the gallery end of the hall, and throwing back the organ and wall behind it, are among the principal improvements which have been sanctioned by the directors and shareholders.

FILTER FOR SEA-WATER.—M. Cardan described at the Academy of Sciences a new system of filtering intended to make sea-water drinkable. The apparatus consists of a syphon, the long tube of which is filled with powdered charcoal.

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.—A general meeting of the members was held on Wednesday in last week at Birmingham, Mr. McConnell in the chair, when papers were read—by Mr. W. Smith, on condensation of steam in Staffordshire engines, and improvements in them; by Mr. Archd. Slate, on a blowing engine working at high velocities; by Mr. J. A. Shipton, Manchester, on a new reciprocating engine; and by Mr. T. Thorneycroft, on the form of shafts and axles.